

# The Way It Was

**NAME:** Carita Rodby

**UNIT:** Father was 1SG for 1<sup>st</sup> Field

Artillery

**TIME PERIOD:** 1911

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CR: We came in 1911 from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. That was the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery and my father was a first sergeant. WE came overland by train. The families traveled with troops in those days. So all I remember of the early days in Schofield then was 1911 when the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery arrived here. That is up where the chemical warfare service is, up toward the Pass.

AJ: Kolekole Pass?

CR: Kolekole Pass.

AJ: How old were you then?

CR: Eight, so I don't know much more than just that as far as the history goes.

AJ: Can you tell us about 1911 on, then? What did the Army do in the area?

Well, there were five of us, five children, and we lived in that area. My dad was entitled to quarters so we had a little tiny house. Five children, I don't know where Mother put them all! Later they added a bedroom. Those that were not entitled to quarters could build their own, so there were several houses that the soldiers had built themselves. They would come over and then they sent for their wives or their sweethearts and they were married there. They were married aboard ship. They had to go meet them with the chaplain right with them, no funny business! So, many of them had built their houses and had them all ready for them such as they were.

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We started school in a little, sort of preschool, and gradually we had our own school. We were there until 1917. From 1911 to 1917.

I know there was nothing in the houses. Our things had arrived and Dad had put a tent out in front and all our things were stored in there. Mother was so worried about her sewing machine. We stayed with friends at Fort Ruger until Dad got the house straightened out. So then we had nothing. No stove or anything, but Mother had a little two-burner kerosene stove. She had insisted on that. They told us not to bring any heavy furniture like upholstery or this little stove, and in those days they had ammo boxes lined with zinc. She used that for a refrigerator but I don't know where she got the ice, or if she got ice. I don't remember that. It was the only stove in the neighborhood for several weeks so whoever borrowed it in the evening invited us to dinner! So then gradually we got it furnished and fixed up.

I know that where the golf course is now was King Kalakaua's hunting lodge. That was called Leilehua Plains. We were the 1<sup>st</sup> Artillery, then the Cavalry arrived, then later the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. That was more down toward where the golf course is now. That was the infantry area. The Cavalry area was right next to where the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery was.

AJ: Did the Cavalry bring their horses?

CR: Yes, and the Artillery had horses then, too. Everything was horses. The first tanks came in just before we left for the mainland. That was the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and Dad was commissioned, ordered to the Middle West somewhere and we stayed in California. The first tanks were coming in, before that everything was horses. Our school bus and everything was horse-drawn.

AJ: Then they had a large stable area?

CR: Oh yes, there were stables and everything, oh yes. Everything was horses all the way through. There were stable up there and the long barracks buildings, of course that's all gone now. We were up there a couple months ago trying to find the area where we lived, where I had explained to the kids. We went up there several years ago and my son went through the undergrowth and he said it was just as I had described it—the back, the gulch and everything—but it was all overgrown. The houses and everything were gone for many, many years.

Now it is all built up again. We were up there, as I said, a couple months ago and it's all houses. Now we couldn't find anything that looked the least bit familiar but the old polo field and that's the motor pool. That was a polo field at that time. Another lady was with me that had lived there at that time too, and we just knew where it was located. Otherwise, we never would have known.

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Every thing was very, well, in this day and age you would almost consider it primitive. You know, the living conditions and all but of course we weren't used to a great deal so it didn't matter that much. We used to go to town by train once a year to Christmas-shop.

I remember we were walking toward the train one day and we were late and Mother sent my brother on ahead to tell them that we were coming and they held the train till we got there. It was quite a walk but of course you walked everywhere in those days.

AJ: Did they have a train depot right in Schofield?

CR: Yes, oh yes. It went right through Schofield there where the golf course is. It had what they called the Pineapple Special, which was small, sort of like a shuttle, and we used to ride that to school and back. Then the regular Oahu railroad had their train right through Schofield.

AJ: What was the area like then? Was there a lot more forest land?

CR: Well, up there where we were was all guavas. We used to go up and pick guavas and Mother made everything from the guavas. Everything was guava bushes up there then, up toward the pass.

AJ: How close to the Pass did you live?

CR: Walking distance. We used to walk there all the time. We used to walk up on school days, you know in groups, what you call field trips, now. I remember once we went to Wahiawa by train. Do you know the place called Hasabe Area up there? See, that's all gone, too. There are some old buildings there that we saw. And the train was in that area.

This is strictly a family point of view, you know, the things that happened to us as kids. I was still a little young when we left here again, about 14 or 15 years old. By the time we came back after the war everything had changed.

When we first came, there were contract companies there and the Oriental laborers lived nearby. They were in the process of building, I guess, the barracks. I remember when we used to walk up at night and they would be in there in the big bathhouse. You know, everybody bathed together. They did. We were the only ones that had any kind of a bathroom at all. I don't know what the other folks did because every once in a while someone would ask me, "Is your father home?" and I would say yes or no and Mother would say, "Don't tell them that, they want to use the bathroom." They used to call the honeyman to come around and empty it. Mother said "Don't say that Daddy's home because they just want to use the bathroom." So I'd say no, he wasn't, or something like that.

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There was building, there was contracting and the man that owned Kemoo, before Dick Rodby took over, was the contractor up there. They must have been building barracks then. Perhaps there were just enough barracks to house the people we brought and then they may have added more. It seemed to me that was it because there was a restaurant and that was in a tent. Everything was tents so they were in the process of building. I don't think you will find anyone that was around before 1900. Well, there may be.

By that time, before we left, they had a couple of big trucks—and Santa Claus came around in a great big Army truck.

And then we had all been sick with diphtheria and part of the family was in a tent in front of the house and my sister and I and Mother were in the house and Santa Claus brought such beautiful gifts. A package for each one.

AJ: Did you see anything or hear anything of Hawaiian royalty?

CR: Yes. When the church was dedicated in 1914 Queen Liliuokalani was out and we saw her then. She was just a shrunken little old lady then. She came to the dedication of the church and that was up in the upper post. I understand that's the same church that's now by Conroy Bowl and that it had been moved down there. But it was farther up in the post, I couldn't tell you just where. It's the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry area. She gave a pair of candlesticks or something like that to the church. Now, that you may find in some history of the church.

AJ: What was the name of the church?

CR: It was everybody's church. All the different ones had their services there. It was the only church at that time in Schofield. The school was located there in a little school building.

AJ: Did you ever take a train out to the Kahuku area?

CR: Not in the early days. Later we did. I don't know, maybe the railroad didn't go all that way around, I'm not sure. We had never been over that way. I guess if we went to town once a year and to Wahiawa, why, we just about had it as far as traveling was concerned.

You know we came back in 1921 and soon after that we were all married.

AJ: Did you settle in Schofield again when you came back the second time?

CR: Yes, we lived, well, I think the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry was right where the Officer's Club is. And the houses are still there. Everything had changed. This was after the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Everything was mechanized by then. No more stables, no more nothing. No sentries walking post at night on horses. All of a sudden you would hear "Who goes there?" You had to stop if you were out running around at night, which we didn't do very much, but

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one night I was running home with my doll and I guess it scared the daylight out of me. They were just young kids, too. They'd yell "Who goes there?" and it would scare the daylight out of me. But I managed to explain that I was just going next door.

The troops were sent out away so much. There was a water shortage in Schofield one year and they sent the troops over to Kailua way because of the water shortage. So, many times the women were all by themselves on the post so guards kept a wary eye on everything. That was a very dry year, at least on Schofield. Maybe the reservoir wasn't finished. They worked on Ku Tree Dam up there, the engineers.

AJ: Could you tell us anything more about the Ku Tree Dam, because that is part of Schofield area, too, I think.

CR: They were working on that when we came back after the war. My brother worked up there. I don't know how long it took them or anything. We made one trip to see it. You know we just didn't go places. We just played around our area and stayed in our area.

We had one trip to the beach which I remember. We got there by horse and wagon. It must have been an awfully long trip. It was so exciting that we didn't pay much attention. I remember coming home. It was dark and Dad had to walk in front with a lantern to guide our way. Everybody was singing and when we came into Schofield we had to be quiet so as not to disturb anybody.

It was a real Army post with the bugle calls. Everybody got up. In early morning it was reveille. At noon the band turned out and played and marched. In the evening the flag came down. It was all in that little period where we lived.

AJ: Do you remember that big stone up in the Pass?

CR: Well, that is there and I think there is a plaque or something there. We had never heard of it in those days. There wasn't too much history or anything. No, we never heard about that until even after I lived in Wahiawa. By that time they began to become interested in these things, legends and things like that. We studied a bit of Hawaiian history, I remember. About the goddess Pele, the volcano goddess. We studied a little bit about that but that was all. We were still very young and our first school... some girl or someone would come over to visit her brother. She'd get a school started and immediately get married and that was the end of that till another one came along. They went along until, oh, it must have been 1913 or 1914 that the Department of Education took over the school and then we really got down to business. We had regular school teachers. So we went until we left here in 1917. It must have been in June. Dad went overseas. Then we came back in 1921. By that time he was a warrant officer so we had very nice quarters. Then in 1924 I was married on Schofield and moved to Wahiawa and I have lived in Wahiawa ever since.